

File No.: 10326-54US-1 KPM/ch

Montreal, Canada  
March 26, 2003

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hua et al  
Serial No.: 09/994,075  
Filed: November 27, 2001  
Title: A Method For Reducing Alkaline Darkening Of  
Mechanical Pulp Containing A Calcium Carbonate Filler  
Group Art Unit: 1731  
Examiner: Marc S. Alvo  
Agent of Record: Kevin Murphy Tel: (514) 847-4293

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

MAR 27 2003

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231  
U.S.A.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL - NO FEE**

Sir: Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, copies of the references listed on the attached PTO Form SB/08A are submitted herewith.

It is hereby certified that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to the Applicant or any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c), or cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the submission of the present information is not to be construed as an admission that such information is, or is considered to be material to patentability.

The Examiner is kindly requested to consider these references during the examination of the above-identified application, making the references of record, and to return an initialed copy of the PTO-SB/08A Form to the below-signed agent.

The two references were cited in an Office Action from the Canadian Patent Office dated January 7, 2003. CA 2 209 014 is the Canadian counterpart of WO96/20308 already of record (item N in PTO-892 attached to Paper No. 3).

Japanese Patent 1085397 teaches the use of a sulfur dye to make paper containing calcium carbonate filler. Sulfur dye is black, and is used mainly for black shade of paper. Sulfur dye is not a sulphite and is not a reducing agent and thus cannot be used to prevent alkaline darkening. In fact the sulfur dye used in Miyamoto's disclosure was to **decrease** paper brightness (delustering). The brightness reduction with sulfur dye is evident by the results in all three tables cited in the Patent. In addition, the Miyamoto Patent relates to a pulp slurry consisting of bleached hardwood and softwood kraft pulp. Unlike mechanical pulps, bleached kraft pulps do **not** contain lignin. Thus, bleached kraft pulp would **not** darken in the presence of calcium carbonate. Therefore, darkening is not a problem in Miyamoto's Patent.

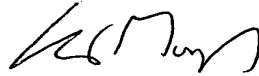
The teaching of Miyamoto are unrelated to those of the present invention. The teachings are not concerned with mechanical pulps and do not have the problems associated with mechanical pulps to which the present invention is directed.

The analysis already of record with respect to WO 96/20308 applies equally to the Canadian counterpart CA 2 209 014.

Respectfully submitted,

Hua et al

By:



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Kevin P. Murphy  
Agent of Record  
Registration No. 26,674  
OGILVY RENAULT  
1981 McGill College Avenue, Suite 1600  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3  
Tel.: (514) 847-4293

Enclosures -  
Form PTO/SB/08A  
Copies of 2 references

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Substitute for form 1449A and B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/994,075
				Filing Date	11-27-2001
				First Named Inventor	Hua
				Art Unit	1731
				Examiner Name	Marc S. Alvo
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	10326-54US-1

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER; Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

